

1 What we claim is:

2 1. A method for customizing an interface to accommodate a user's availability
3 of content, comprising:

4 determining a link speed that a user machine can accommodate; and
5 using a control channel and the determined link speed, creating a
6 display of content choices available to a user on the user machine.

7
8 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the user machine is a personal computer and
9 the step of determining determines a maximum bandwidth at which the personal
10 computer receives content from an internet service provider ("ISP").

11
12 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the display of content choices is a dynamic
13 graphical user interface ("GUI").

14
15 4. The method of claim 3 wherein a skin for the dynamic GUI is used.

16
17 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the skin is personalized for the user.

18
19 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the skin includes advertisements.

20
21 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step uses a personal profile of
22 the user.

23
24 8. The method of claim 4 wherein the content is filtered for the user using the
25 personal profile.

26
27 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is multimedia content.

28
29 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is made available from a source
30 using a satellite transponder to multicast the content.

31
32 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the content includes infomercials with links
33 to web sites.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step is created to create an
2 additional display.

3

4 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is broadcast on virtual channels.

5

6 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is routed to the user machine by
7 a software module resident at an Internet Service Provider ("ISP").

8

9 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the content is routed to the user machine by
10 a dedicated server at an ISP.

11

12 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step and the creating step
13 are performed by a software module resident on the user machine.

14

15 17. The method of claim 1 wherein software at an ISP location assists in
16 performing the determining step.

17

18 18. A computer readable medium containing instructions for customizing an
19 interface to accommodate a user's availability of content, by performing the method
20 of claim 1.

21

22 19. A method for gathering data about a subscriber over the Internet using
23 incentives comprising:
24 offering an incentive in exchange for receiving data about a subscriber;
25 receiving acceptance of the offer; and
26 providing the offered incentive, wherein the incentive may be used to
27 purchase content.

28

29 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the incentive includes cash.

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31 21. The method of claim 19 wherein the incentive includes credits that may be
32 used to purchase pay-per-view content.

33

CLAIMS
19-36,
53-61, 62,
AND 67-72
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1 22. The method of claim 19 wherein the incentive is points of a credit card
2 loyalty system.

3

4 23. The method of claim 19 wherein the incentive may be used to purchase data
5 on virtual channels.

6

7 24. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of offering comprises transmitting
8 an HTML page.

9

10 25. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of receiving acceptance comprises
11 receiving data via the Internet.

12

13 26. The method of claim 19 wherein the offering step is performed by a client
14 server at an ISP.

15

16 27. The method of claim 19 further comprising tracking incentives, wherein a
17 network operations center is used to track the incentives.

18

19 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of receiving an acceptance
20 comprises receiving an Internet communication at the network operations center.

21

22 29. The method of claim 19 wherein the offering step comprises sending an
23 offer on a virtual channel.

24

25 30. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of offering comprises using a
26 satellite transponder.

27

28 31. The method of claim 19 wherein acceptance includes a one-click action and
29 the step of receiving an acceptance comprises receiving an indication of the one-
30 click action.

31

32 32. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
33 storing the subscriber data.

34

1 33. The method of claim 32 wherein the subscriber data is stored in a file at a
2 user machine.

3

4 34. The method of claim 32 wherein the subscriber data is stored at the client
5 server.

6

7 35. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of receiving an acceptance
8 comprises:

9 storing data about the user at a personal computer; and
10 the user authorizing a software program on the personal computer to
11 send the stored data about the user over the internet.

12

13 36. A computer-readable medium containing instruction for gathering data about
14 a subscriber over the Internet using incentives, by performing the method of claim
15 19.

16

17 37. A method for delivering personalized broadband content comprising:
18 receiving a request for a portion of multicast data in IP protocol;
19 receiving multicast data in an IP protocol;
20 locating the requested portion of multicast data; and
21 sending the requested portion of multicast data to a user machine
22 connected to an ISP.
23

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24 38. The method of claim 37 wherein the request is received from client software
25 resident on the user machine.

26

27 39. The method of claim 37 wherein the request is received over a network.

28

29 40. The method of claim 37 wherein the requested portion of the multicast data
30 comprises multimedia content.

31

32 41. The method of claim 37 further comprising:
33 receiving a control channel that contains information about the
34 multicast data; and,

1 using the control channel to locate the requested portion of multicast
2 data.

4 42. The method of claim 37 further comprising:
5 determining whether a user at the user machine is authorized to view
6 the requested portion of data.

8 43. The method of claim 37 wherein the multicast data is received on virtual
9 channels format.

11 44. The method of claim 37 wherein the multicast data is received from a
12 satellite transponder.

15 reviewing a user database for information about a user at the user
16 machine, wherein the user requests the multicast data.

18 46. The method of claim 45 further comprising:

19 confirming that the user is authorized to view the requested data
20 based on the information about the user.

22 47. The method of claim 37 wherein a plurality of requests are received
23 concurrently.

25 48. The method of claim 37 wherein a plurality of requests are received for the
26 same multicast data.

28 49. The method of claim 37 wherein the requested multicast data is sent to a
29 plurality of users concurrently.

31 50. The method of claim 37 wherein the step of receiving the multicast data
32 comprises receiving multiple multicast feeds.

34 51. The method claim 37 wherein the step of sending sends streaming video.

1 52. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for delivering
2 personalized broadband content, by performing the method of claim 37.
3
4 53. A method for advertising with rich media type content comprising:
5 sending an advertisement linked to rich media content to a user
6 machine;
7 displaying the advertisement with the rich media content at the user
8 machine;
9 storing the advertisement in a memory device; and
10 recalling the advertisement for display with other rich media content.
11
12 54. The method of claim 53 further comprising:
13 linking the advertisement to the other rich media content.
14
15 55. The method of claim 53 wherein the rich media content is video and audio.
16
17 56. The method of claim 53 wherein the rich media content comprises text and
18 graphics.
19
20 57. The method of claim 53 wherein the advertisement is stored for a set period
21 of time.
22
23 58. The method of claim 53 wherein the advertisement is a rich media
24 advertisement.
25
26 59. The method of claim 53 wherein the advertisement is targeted to users
27 meeting certain criteria.
28
29 60. The method of claim 53 further comprising: deleting the advertisement from
30 memory after it has been displayed.
31
32 61. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for advertising with
33 rich media type content, by performing the method of claim 53.
34

1 62. A method of delivering personalized broadband content, comprising:
2 receiving content at a network operations center;
3 associating promotional material with the content;
4 scheduling the content on virtual channels, wherein the virtual
5 channels are a Multicast IP stream;
6 broadcasting the virtual channels over a transmission medium;
7 receiving the virtual channels at a broadband ISP;
8 routing requested virtual channels to a user machine; and
9 displaying the content in the requested virtual channels on the user
10 machine.

11

12 63. A method of delivering personalized broadband content, comprising:
13 receiving a plurality of virtual channels at a user machine, wherein
14 each virtual channel comprises content;
15 filtering the plurality of virtual channels based on a user's personal
16 profile;
17 displaying the filtered virtual channels in a GUI, wherein a virtual
18 channel may be selected; and,
19 if a virtual channel is selected, displaying or storing content from the
20 virtual channel.

21

22 64. The method of claim 63, further comprising receiving a control channel that
23 includes information about the virtual channels, wherein the filtering step is also
24 based on the control channel information.

25

26 65. The method of claim 63, wherein the content is stored in a user cache on the
27 user machine.

28

29 66. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for delivering
30 personalized broadband content, by:
31 receiving a plurality of virtual channels at a user machine, wherein
32 each virtual channel comprises content;
33 filtering the plurality of virtual channels based on a user's personal
34 profile;

displaying the filtered virtual channels in a GUI, wherein a virtual channel may be selected; and,

if a virtual channel is selected, displaying or storing content from the virtual channel.

67. A system for delivering personalized broadband content, comprising:

a network operations center (“NOC”), comprising one or more servers, that receives content and promotional material and schedules the content for broadcast on virtual channels;

10 a transmission medium, operatively connected to the NOC, that
11 transmits the virtual channels;

a point-of-presence (“POP”) client server that receives at least a subset of the virtual channels; and

14 a user machine, connected via a network to the POP client server,
15 comprising client software that issues requests for virtual channels and
16 processes the virtual channels to display the content and promotional
17 materials on the user machine, wherein the POP client server ~~routs~~ virtual
18 channels to the user machine based on the requests issued by the client
19 software.

21 68. The system of claim 67, wherein the user machine comprises a user cache
22 and the client software stores content from virtual channels in the user cache.

24 69. The system of claim 67, wherein the user machine includes a personal
25 profile and the client software filters the virtual channels based on the client
26 software, the client software further comprising:

27 a dynamic GUI that displays the filtered virtual channels so that a
28 user may select content from the filtered virtual channels for viewing and/or
29 storing.

31 70. The system of claim 67, wherein the promotional materials include e-
32 commerce opportunities through which a user on the user machine makes a
33 purchase and wherein the NOC further comprises:

1 an e-commerce router that intercepts the user purchase, records the
2 user purchase, re-routs the user purchase to a provider of the e-commerce
3 opportunity, and invoices the provider for the purchase.

5 71. The system of claim 67, wherein the promotional materials include an
6 advertisement with hyper-links that is clicked by a user at the user machine and
7 wherein the NOC further comprises:

8 an advertising portal server that intercepts the advertisement click of
9 the user, records the advertisement click, re-routs the advertisement click to
10 a provider of the advertisement, and invoices the provider for the
11 advertisement click.

13 72. The system of claim 67, wherein the transmission medium is a satellite and
14 the POP client server is located at a broadband ISP that receives the virtual channels
15 via satellite.